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Heavy Rains Affecting Crop in Ukraine

Report Categories:

Agriculture in the News

Grain and Feed

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Report Highlights:

Major grain producing regions in Ukraine have been receiving excessive precipitation during harvest or just prior to the time when wheat and barley are ready for harvest. Central regions are most affected. A powerful cyclone has stalled over Ukraine, resulting in continuous rains for about ten days at the time of this writing. This storm is forecasted to move southeast in the next few days. This weather pattern is quite abnormal for the country and is expected to have negative effects on some crops. Wheat and barley harvesting began in Ukraine in mid June. Private firms making production forecasts have commented they may see negative changes by 10-30%. Some crops such as corn and sunflower may be able to benefit from this rain, but the intensity and duration of the rains will determine that.

General Information:

Rains in Ukraine that lasted for over a week in the last part of June will definitely have a negative impact on the production of major winter crops including wheat and barley. FAS-Kyiv interviewed a number of producers in different regions in the country as well as independent experts and the Government of Ukraine's official information source. The private sources' unanimous opinion at present is that the overall production of wheat and barley in Ukraine will decline from levels expected before the onset of the rains.

According to Hydrometcenter of Ukraine, Central Ukraine received the most rains during the last 7-10 days. Some places saw an accumulation of about 150 millimeters of rain within just 4 days while the average monthly rate is about 80 millimeters. The following is a list of oblasts that have been receiving excessive precipitation and are most affected at present:

Cherkasska
Kyrovogradska
Dnipropetrivska
Kyivska
Vinnitska
Odesska
Mykolaivska



Plant lodging is observed in central regions due to heavy rains. Wheat and barley crops are most at risk. Also,

there is expected to be some additional lodging occurring in the next week or so due to oversaturated soils. Rain is still in the forecast, so the prospects for plant recovery in certain areas will depend on winds and the storm system's movement.

The high pressure cyclone that stalled over Central Ukraine for the last several days is anticipated to be slowly moving south and southeast in the next few days. Hydrometcenter of Ukraine forecasts rains to continue in Ukraine for at least another 5-7 days. If this weather pattern persists in its current trajectory, the following oblasts would be affected next:

Khersonska
Donetska
Republic of Crimea

Crop harvesting that was just starting in the south and in central Ukraine in the latter part of June will be delayed, which may result not only in production losses but also have an impact on the overall harvesting campaign in Ukraine this year.

Mainly wheat and barley production quantity but also quality of these crops in Ukraine is expected to decline due to the wet weather conditions. Some industry analysts project a 10% decline and some say the losses may reach 20-30% in the affected regions if heavy rains continue for another week. At present, there is not enough data from field observations to make more precise projections.

On the positive side, the precipitation in Ukraine in June was beneficial for corn and sunflower plant development. However, if rains continue and stay heavy, this may lead to disease or other developments in these and other crops. The Ministry of Agrarian Policy's statement on 29 June reflected this positive aspect.

Prior to this report, USDA official estimates for grain production in Ukraine were as follows:

Wheat 19.0 million metric tons
Barley 8.5 million metric tons
Corn 15.0 million metric tons

When more field data and observations are available in the first week of July FAS-Kyiv will make recommendations about changes to the production forecasts for major crops affected by this abnormal weather pattern.